

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of comparing mutual funds by determining a power spectral density (PSD) of respective mutual funds according to fund cumulative growth (G) and fund stability (S), and ranking the mutual funds from highest to lowest power spectral density.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining the power spectral density is practiced by multiplying the square of the fund cumulative growth by the fund stability, such that $PSD=G^2 \bullet S$.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the step of determining the power spectral density is practiced by determining the fund stability according to $S = Avg - StdDev$, where Avg is an average annual growth over a predetermined period, and StdDev is a standard deviation of the annual growth over the predetermined period.
4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising tracking a selected mutual fund according to upper and lower control limits that are determined based on a standard deviation of the selected mutual fund performance average.
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the step of tracking the selected mutual fund is practiced on two tracks including

a first track over a first period of time and a second track over a second period of time, shorter than the first period of time.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the first track is a global track and the first period of time is one year, the method further comprising determining upper and lower control limits for the global track based on a standard deviation of the selected mutual fund annual performance average over multiple years of performance data, and

wherein the second track is a current track and the second period of time is one day, the method further comprising determining upper and lower control limits for the current track based on a standard deviation of the selected mutual fund daily performance average over multiple days of performance data.

7. A method according to claim 4, wherein the tracking step is practiced by determining the upper and lower control limits based on two standard deviations of the selected mutual fund performance average.

8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising timing an investment or divestment in the selected mutual fund according a price of the selected mutual fund relative to the upper and lower control limits.

9. A method of comparing mutual funds by determining a power spectral density (PSD) of respective mutual funds according to

a product of a principle factor squared times fund stability (S), and ranking the mutual funds from highest to lowest power spectral density.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the principle factor is cumulative growth.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of determining the power spectral density is practiced by determining the fund stability according to $S = \text{Avg} - \text{StdDev}$, where Avg is an average annual growth over a first predetermined period, and StdDev is a standard deviation of the annual growth over the first predetermined period.

12. A method according to claim 9, further comprising tracking a selected mutual fund according to upper and lower control limits that are determined based on a standard deviation of the selected mutual fund performance average.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the step of tracking the selected mutual fund is practiced on two tracks including a first track over a first period of time and a second track over a second period of time, shorter than the first period of time.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the first track is a global track and the first period of time is one year, the method further comprising determining upper and lower control limits for the

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED
APR 20 2004
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

global track based on a standard deviation of the selected mutual fund annual performance average over multiple years of performance data, and

wherein the second track is a current track and the second period of time is one day, the method further comprising determining upper and lower control limits for the current track based on a standard deviation of the selected mutual fund daily performance average over multiple days of performance data.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein the tracking step is practiced by determining the upper and lower control limits based on two standard deviations of the selected mutual fund performance average.

16. A method according to claim 15, further comprising timing an investment or divestment in the selected mutual fund according a price of the selected mutual fund relative to the upper and lower control limits.

17. A system for comparing mutual funds comprising means for determining a power spectral density (PSD) of respective mutual funds according to fund cumulative growth (G) and fund stability (S), and means for ranking the mutual funds from highest to lowest power spectral density.

18. A system according to claim 17, wherein the power spectral density is determined by multiplying the square of the fund cumulative growth by the fund stability, such that $PSD=G^2 \bullet S$.
19. A system according to claim 18, wherein the fund stability (S) = $Avg - StdDev$, where Avg is an average annual growth over a predetermined period, and $StdDev$ is a standard deviation of the annual growth over the predetermined period.
20. A system according to claim 17, further comprising means for tracking a selected mutual fund according to upper and lower control limits that are determined based on a standard deviation of the selected mutual fund performance average.

PCT/US2008/033050